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George C. Griffing Correspondence

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Maine State Library

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GRIFFING, GEORGE C.

B. Brunswick, October 16, 1923

Short Biographical Sketch of the life of George C. Griffing

Born October 16, 1923, Brunswick, Maine the son of Clarence E. and Wilhelmena Griffing, in the Longtin home on Weymouth & Union Streets, thence to the Brackett Road, Brunswick, Me. pointed up the beginnings of the rural activities of George C. Griffing. Following schooling for a few years in a one-room schoolhouse on the Durham Road and Sunday Schooling in the local Friends Meetinghouse the Griffing family moved to 9 Pleasant Street Topsham, Maine. Here schooling was continued, along with Baptist Church activities, through the eighth grade (1937) in the Topsham Grammar School. At the age of eight years old he began selling papers (Brunswick Record) and working on a bakery wagon to earn money for clothes and essentials of life. Later, at the coming of age for Social Security, he began working at the Pejepscot Paper Mill (Bowdoin Division).

High School education began in the fall of 1937 in the old Brunswick High School then under the Principalship of Percy Graves. Later he was to be moved to the New Brunswick High School on Spring Street Brunswick--Topsham having abandoned its high school some years earlier.

Working at odd jobs i.e. mowing lawns, pumping the church organ, and ringing the church bell kept George from the sports activities some of which he "caught up" with later in life.

High School Graduation (Commercial Course) in 1941 found George with wishes for more 'l'arnin'. He became manager of an automotive store, later a Pipecoverer at the Bath Iron Works to provide sufficient funds for a year at the University of Maine. This career was to be interrupted from 1943 to 1945 with service in the Navy Air Corps. Upon returning to the University in 1945 (one day following discharge) he worked to completion of a Bachelor of Arts Degree in August of 1947--the completion of a Master of Arts degree from Calvin Coolidge College in 1948 and a Master of Education degree from the University of Maine in 1954.

George had a strong liking to do things other people didn't. For example, in the company of Ralph W. Edwards he climbed seven mountains, including Mount Washington, one night by full moon; in 1946 in the company of James F. Shea, a University companion, and with \$50.00 in his pocket, he hitch-hiked to Mexico City to attend the Summer Session at the National University. While there he hiked a ride to Acapulco on the Pacific Shore. Upon completion of his studies there he returned only to complete a two-day canoe trip in the Finger Lake region of upper New York State. Later, during Christmas Vacation at the University of Maine he applied for a job as attendant at the Bangor State Hospital. This was to help him in his major course in Psychology.

He taught at Ricker Classical Institute, Ricker Junior College, and Ricker College 1948-49 & 1949-50. Following a trip to the West coast and an auto accident he was destined to take a teaching position in Wiggins, Colorado. While there he married Miss Sarepta Kelso from Houlton Maine in a ceremony in Denver.

In 1951 he accepted the position of Principal of North Berwick High School. Later he became assistant Principal at Wiscasset High School (1953-55). In the year 1955 he became Assistant Professor at Gorham State Teachers College.

His chief interests have been travel and education--spirited interests which still dominate his life.

Wiscasset Teacher Author Of Manual



George C. Griffing

WISCASSET, July 30—George C. Griffing, math and science at Wiscasset High School, has published a manual entitled "An Easier Way to Prepare Papers and Speeches (Use your own topic)". Mrs. Dorothy Apgar, art supervisor in the Wiscasset schools, did the illustrations.

The purpose of the manual, according to Griffing, is "to help writers and speakers organize their preparatory work without taking too much time." He claims, "students doing regular college work, and, in particular, graduate students, spend too much time reading materials which they never use in their final speech or papers.

With the help of the manual a person should be able to organize information in such manner as to be able to complete all research reading in a minimum period of time.

Griffing, a native of Topsham is a former teacher at Ricker Classical Institute and Ricker College, Houlton, at Wiggins, Colo., and former principal at North Berwick High School.

January 30, 1956

Mr. George C. Griffing
Wiscasset High School
Wiscasset, Maine

Dear Mr. Griffing:

Some time ago we read of your manual, AN EASIER WAY TO PREPARE PAPERS AND SPEECHES. Apart from the subject matter, the book interests us because of your connection with Maine. We try to keep in touch with Maine writers and their work; but we shall have to admit that so far we have not found biographical information about you, and we do not know whether we have the pleasure of claiming you as a Maine native, or as an "adopted" son.

Our particular reason for writing in this vein is the Maine Author Collection, of which you may already know. It is a permanent exhibit of books by Maine people, or those closely connected with the state, of books about Maine. About two thousand volumes, most of them inscribed presentation copies, comprise the collection. The individual inscriptions lend distinction to an exhibit of variety and worth. It constantly attracts students and visitors, and we are proud to watch its growth.

It is a happy moment when we can add a new book to the shelves, and welcome a new author. Shall we be able to do so with you? At any rate, you have our good wishes for the success of your manual, which should certainly find a warm welcome from many people.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

33 High St., Newbury.
February 23, 1956

Thank you for your interest. I hope that I have
written will be of value to your collection of
Maine authors.

I am presently working on a book "Education in
a Peace-Time World". As an aside, I am
also applying for the Commissioner of Education
position now open.

Thank you again for your fine work & patience with
characters such as I. - Yours

February 27, 1956

Mr. George C. Griffing
Gorham State Teachers College
Gorham, Maine

Dear Mr. Griffing:

Thank you very much for your prompt and friendly response to our letter, and for sending your booklet, AN EASIER WAY TO PREPARE PAPERS & SPEECHES.

We hope this is only the first publication. Can't you do a bigger book on the subject? And with your varied background of travel and experience, surely there must be several books. We'll hope so.

Meanwhile, our appreciation for your interest and our very good wishes to you in your present undertaking.

Sincerely yours

hmj

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